Mount Wachusett Community College

Fall 2009

Volume 1 • Number 1

CareerFocus™

Transfer Students Save Big Bucks

Don't Make These Student Loan Mistakes

Be Ready When the Economy Turns Around

Top Ten Growing Career Programs at MWCC

Boot Up Your Career

Earn a Degree in Computer Information Systems

Automotive Careers Take Off

Your Community, Your College

Mount Wachusett Community College A to Z

The Emerging Field of Biotechnology

Mount Wachusett Community College

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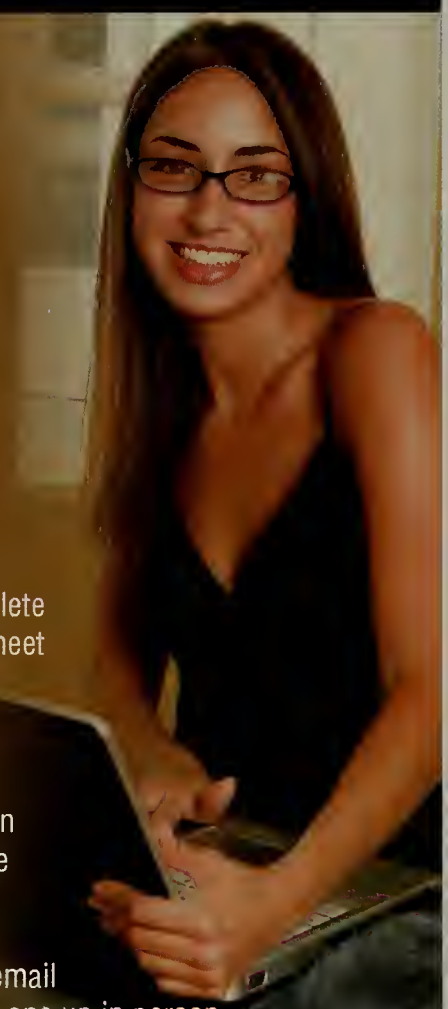

Enrolling is easy:

Continuing Students

- Go to www.mwcc.edu, click on "WebConnect," or
- Contact the Enrollment Center at (978) 630-9284, or in person

New/Former Students:
Students new to MWCC, or those who have not taken courses at MWCC in the past 12 months can:

- Apply online at www.mwcc.edu, or
- Contact the Enrollment Center at (978) 630-9284, or in person

All new students are required to complete college placement testing, and must meet prerequisite requirements prior to course selection.

Course Schedules

- Courses fill fast and new sections open continuously. Find the most up-to-date listings online: www.mwcc.edu/fall.
- To obtain a print version of MWCC's class schedule, call (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu, or pick one up in person.

Mount Wachusett Community College

Dear Community Member,

We hope you enjoy the first edition of MWCC's CareerFocus magazine, a new way for MWCC to reach out to the community and provide helpful information on MWCC's programs and services. The purpose of the magazine is to offer you the information you need to make decisions about your college and career path, while informing you about how MWCC can be a resource along the way. This issue includes helpful articles on financial aid, growing careers in the region, and how much money you can save by attending MWCC before transferring to a four-year college. Future issues will focus on additional topics critical to your college, career, and transfer decisions.

We hope you enjoy this first edition.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Asquino, Ph.D.
President, Mount Wachusett Community College

Tues., Aug. 11, 5 – 7 p.m.
Leominster Campus

Thurs., Aug. 20, 5 – 7 p.m.
Devens Campus

Wed., Aug. 26, 5 – 7 p.m.
Gardner Campus

MWCC Open Houses

For more information, call (978) 630-9284 or go to www.mwcc.edu

MWCC Campus Locations and Hours

Gardner Campus
444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 632-6600
Email: admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

Leominster Campus
100 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA 01453
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 840-3221
Email: leominster@mwcc.mass.edu

Devens Campus
One Jackson Place
27 Jackson Road, Devens, MA 01434
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(978) 630-9569
Email: devens@mwcc.mass.edu

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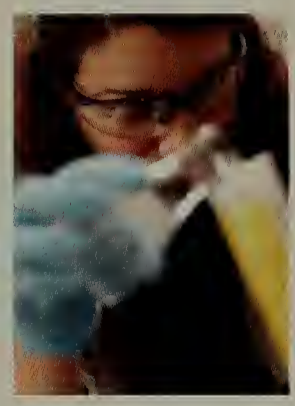

On the Cover:

Jennifer Crandall is a member of the first graduating MWCC biotechnology class.

Questions about the MWCC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Enrollment Center at (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu. Comments and questions about the publication itself can be directed to the MWCC marketing department, (978) 630-9122.

Visit Mount Wachusett Community College on the web at www.mwcc.edu

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NEW!

CareerFocus Café
www.careerfocuscafe.com
An online resource for students, job-hunters and workers

Mount Wachusett Community College

Not Rich, Just Smart

Transfer students get the same education and spend a lot less

Nationally about 41 percent of all students get their education at community colleges. While starting at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) has always been a smart move, in today's uncertain economy, it makes even more sense.

Consider this: Tuition at MWCC is about $4,800 a year for 30 credit hours. That same credit load would cost about $11,732 at a state university and about $39,960 at a private university (not including housing!).

That means if you spend two years at MWCC and transfer to a four-year university for the rest of your education, you can expect to save anywhere from $13,864 to $70,320—or $30,008 to $94,000 if you include housing. Wow.

Is the value of a college education related to its cost?

Transfer students get exactly the same diploma as students who spent four years—and a lot more money—at a four-year institution. While MWCC academic courses come in a slightly different wrapper, the quality and content are top-notch. Classes are small, the faculty is committed to teaching, and MWCC credits transfer to universities all over the country.

So if you start out at a four-year university, you might get to share a tiny dorm room with two other students, gain your freshman 15 on dining hall food and gaze at a few ivory towers but you're not going to get a better education.

Three easy ways to transfer

One of the reasons community colleges were created was to provide the first two years of a four-year degree at low cost and close to home. So naturally we do it well. Our classes are designed to transfer; our counselors will guide you to find the best four-year institution for you; and our instructors will inspire you to do your best.

What if I don't have a plan—or a major?

You're certainly not alone if you want to explore your interests before you declare a major. According to the website MyMajors.com, as many as 80 percent of incoming freshman haven't settled on a program of study yet.

MWCC Associate Director of Transfer Planning Services Nancy Greenlaw recommends all students take time to meet with a counselor as early as possible, "We have assessments available to help students understand their interests and talents. These will guide them in their choices of majors and possibly help choose a transfer institution too. It's a good idea to develop an educational plan in the beginning and reassess it once a semester," she explains.

MWCC's Liberal Arts & Sciences programs are a good option for students who want to explore their interests before committing to a major. It provides a broad foundation in the humanities and social sciences, allowing you to choose from a menu of courses in art, science, and language, among others.

Smart transfer students know that not every class transfers to every institution. For example, graphic design classes may earn you credit if you go to art school but not if you transfer into a pre-med program. That's why it's important to work with an academic counselor to create a plan—and to adapt it if you change your mind.

What if I know exactly what I want?

What if you've always dreamed of being an Eagle or a River Hawk but your grades didn't make the cut? What if your parents just can't pay for the private liberal arts college you set your sights on? With MWCC's help you can still get there. By raising your GPA and saving money, you can still earn your bachelor's degree from your dream school—and probably discover that the community college in your backyard has some good things going for it too.

MWCC Director of Admissions John D. Walsh has spent many years advising students who planned to transfer to a four-year college. "Sometimes they didn't get into the four-year college out of high school and decided to improve their GPA at MWCC and try again," he says. "More often, I have seen students who are admitted to their first choice four-year college and chose the transfer route from MWCC to save big bucks. I'd say about 80 percent of the students I worked with knew they'd do well at a four-year college but came to MWCC to save some money."

MWCC has hundreds of agreements that help to make transfer to a four year college seamless. For example, MassTransfer identifies all the general education classes that transfer to Massachusetts public colleges. MWCC also has over 100 agreements with four-year schools that make it easy for students to complete basics at MWCC and add

higher-level courses at a transfer institution.

How can I earn a bachelor's degree at the least possible cost?

"Students are often surprised when they find out that they can complete up to three years toward their bachelor's degree at MWCC, and then take the last year at a four-year college," says Greenlaw. "Most people think that community colleges can only provide the first two years toward a bachelor's degree, but that has recently changed."

MWCC's new University College *3 plus ONE* agreements allow students to earn their associate degree at MWCC, complete up to another 30 additional credits here at MWCC prices, then transfer the credits to a partner college. The final year can be completed online, at MWCC, or on-campus at the four-year school, enabling students to earn a high-quality bachelor's degree in a convenient and cost-effective manner.

"We created these agreements because we wanted our students to have an avenue to obtaining highly-regarded degrees from prominent four-year colleges at the least possible cost," says Daniel M. Asquino, president of MWCC.

Current *3 plus ONE* partners include Franklin University, Nichols College, Regis College and Saint Joseph's College of Maine. **CF**

Tuition at MWCC is about $4,800 a year for 30 credit hours. That same credit load would cost about $11,732 at a state university and about $39,960 at a private university (not including housing!).

A Transfer Glossary

2+2

The typical transfer plan in which a student completes two years of general education credit at a community college and transfers to a four-year institution for the final two years of a bachelor's degree.

University College—3 plus ONE

An innovative transfer plan in which students earn an associate degree plus an additional 30 credits at a community college and transfer to a four-year institution for the final 30 credits of their bachelor's degree.

MassTransfer

An agreement among Massachusetts public higher ed. institutions. Participants complete an associate degree and graduate with a minimum of 60 credit hours, of which 34 designated credits meet *general education requirements* transferable into specific programs at Massachusetts state colleges and universities. MassTransfer replaces the Commonwealth Transfer Compact, Joint Admissions, and the Tuition Advantage Program.

Transfer/Articulation Agreement

A detailed agreement between a community college and a four-year institution that spells out the terms and conditions, including required courses, for transfer between institutions. MWCC currently has more than 100 of these agreements with colleges and universities. **CF**

Sisters Caitlin and Heather Barclay

MWCC Helps Family Pursue Dream Jobs—Debt-free!

For the Barclays, attending MWCC has become a family legacy that has not only helped the family to realize their goals, but has kept them free of college loan debt.

Mary Barclay turned to MWCC when her first daughter was young. "I was a married woman with an infant, who had absolutely no way to earn money should something happen to her husband. The Mount helped me earn an Associate Degree in Nursing."

Both of the Barclay daughters, Heather and Caitlin, attended MWCC when they completed homeschooling at age 16 and then transferred to UMass Amherst. Heather now works in Washington, D.C. as a sign language interpreter. She recently served as an interpreter for Hillary Clinton when the new secretary of state made her first broadcast to embassies around the globe. Caitlin graduated this spring and headed for San Antonio, Texas, where she works at SeaWorld—her dream job is in marine mammal training.

"While the achievements of our daughters are reasons enough to smile, the smile really comes from the fact we have two daughters who have earned bachelor's degrees and have done so without incurring any debt," says Mary. Mary points out that MWCC helped the family to save in several ways: MWCC's tuition was lower than any other educational option; the girls lived at home, thereby saving on room and board expenses; and a combination of the Honors Program and MWCC's transfer agreements with public four-year colleges helped the family to realize tuition benefits at MWCC and UMass. **CF**

Transfer Websites

MWCC Transfer Information:
http://transfer.mwcc.edu

3 plus ONE:
www.mwcc.edu/3plusone

MassTransfer: site coming soon!

Feature

I Owe HOW Much?

Don't make these student loan mistakes

Today about 60 percent of college students borrow money for their education and on average they'll owe about $22,000 when they're done.

That's a significant amount of money, but for most students it's what financial folks call good debt —an investment in a brighter future and higher earning potential. Because those with advanced degrees will earn about $1 million more than high school graduates over their lifetime, borrowing for college is generally a wise investment.

Yet, there are plenty of stories of graduates who have borrowed themselves into a corner. Their monthly payments are painfully high and they wish they'd borrowed less. By following some common sense guidelines, you can take advantage of student loans without letting them take advantage of you.

1. DON'T overestimate what your income will be when you graduate

While earning a college degree will increase your earning power, incomes vary widely by occupation. For example, nurses and engineers can expect starting salaries over $50,000 a year, but English majors and teachers will likely earn around $35,000 to start out.

Be realistic about your future income and living expenses. Not only will you have to pay back your loans, you'll need a place to live, food to eat, transportation and a little money for fun. As a guideline, your student loan payment should be no more than 8-15 percent of your take-home pay.

Deborrah Glenn-Long, school consultant for the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation and the prior Director of the Student Financial Services Center at Yale University, has worked with thousands of students over the years. She says, "I've never had any students tell me that they wished they had borrowed more, but I've had lots of students say that they wished they had borrowed less." She reminds students that they shouldn't borrow just because they can because they'll end up paying for it in the long run."

2. DON'T assume that the more expensive your education, the more you'll earn

While a big name university might give you a foot in the door and impress your coworkers, over the long run your career choice and your work record will be a better indicator of your salary.

A widely-reported 1999 study found that bright, motivated students who went to "average" colleges tended to make nearly identical salaries to those who graduated from selective—and expensive—colleges. Economist Alan B. Krueger, coauthor of the study told *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, "It's not the school that has the magic touch; it's the students."

Students who choose expensive colleges also tend to take out more student loans. A 2005 Department of Education survey found that about 45 percent of students at public four-year schools took out loans averaging $5,600 a year. While 56 percent of private college students took out loans averaging $6,900 a year. Those numbers drop considerably for two-year public colleges where only 12 percent took out student loans averaging $3,600 a year.

Remember, if you're borrowing 15 percent of your future earnings for student loans now, you're going to qualify for less when you want to borrow for a car or a home. And most banks will only lend up to 40 percent of your income for all debt.

3. DON'T drop out

If you borrow money for a degree that you don't complete, you get the double whammy—more debt and less income. A 2005 National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education survey found that about 20 percent of students with loans dropped out of college.

"Keep your eye on your long-term goals and don't give up at the first sign of stress," reminds Glenn-Long. "Colleges have numerous resources for those who may be struggling—from tutoring services to career counseling to financial planning. All you need to do is ask. And what you'll often learn is that other students may be feeling the same pressure you are."

Glenn-Long also encourages students to get involved with activities, clubs or even get a part-time job on campus. The more involved you are, the better your support system and the less likely you are to drop out of school. As a bonus, you can develop some great "soft skills" that will help you land that dream job somewhere down the line.

4. DON'T drag it out

Six years of college is going to cost more than four. Likewise, if you plan to transfer to another school later or pursue an advanced degree, you want to be sure that your future school will accept the classes you are taking now. Remember that some courses aren't offered every term and, with increasing enrollments, classes fill quickly. Your academic advisor can help you develop a reasonable plan of study.

While there are limits to how much students can borrow through federal student loans, it's possible to rack up a lot of debt. For example, freshmen are limited to $5,500 a year but undergraduates can rack up to $31,000 before they reach their lifetime loan limit and graduate and professional students are allowed to borrow well into the six figures.

Glenn-Long encourages students to "remember their Loan ABC's—Always Borrow Conservatively." She saw this in action a few years ago while counseling a nursing student at MWCC. When she reminded the student that some hospitals are facing such severe nursing shortages that they may offer debt forgiveness in exchange for a long-term employment commitment, the student said that she had already been offered such an incentive and had declined it. Glenn-Long was surprised and asked why. The student's response?, "Because I only owe $600 and I don't want to be an indentured servant for that small amount of money." Glenn-Long uses that example with other MWCC students to remind them less student loan debt at graduation offers students many more choices—from where to live, to what job to take, to what kind of car to drive. Glenn-Long sums it up with, "If you live like a student now, you will be able to enjoy the extras in life later." **CF**

More Student Loan Information Online

How to plan careers and college finance
mappingyourfuture.org

How to estimate college costs
www.salliemae.com/content/landing/planner/eip.html

How to borrow wisely
www.projectonstudentdebt.org

How to calculate student debt to income
www.finaid.org/calculators/undergradadvisor.phtml

Top Ten Careers You Can Prepare for at MWCC

Be Ready When the Economy Turns Around

Got your walking papers due to the poor economy? Perhaps your next walk should be into the classroom. Take this time to invest in your greatest asset: you. By going to college now, you'll be the one ready to take advantage of opportunities in the new economy while others will just be getting started. MWCC has several programs that you can complete in as little as one or two years and begin a career (healthcare programs may take longer). We have highlighted 10 MWCC programs that were listed by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) as growing careers in Massachusetts that require an associate degree. Many more careers are available for those who attend MWCC and then transfer on to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree. For additional information on these programs, see the A-Z program listing on pages 13-16.

Registered Nurse
median salary: $36.21 hourly

At the core of a healthcare team are Registered Nurses whose mission is to assess and care for the ill and injured and prevent illness. Nurses provide day-to-day care, develop and implement nursing care plans, maintain medical records, and advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention. *Corresponding MWCC program: Nursing Degree.*

Computer Support Specialist
median salary: $25.61 hourly

Computer support specialists troubleshoot and provide technical assistance, support, and advice to customers and other users. Almost all businesses use computers to run their day-to-day operations and specialists are needed to keep those systems up and running. *Corresponding MWCC programs include: Computer Information Systems Degree, IT Support Specialist Certificate, and Electronic Communications & Digital Media Certificate.*

Paralegal
median salary: $23.86 hourly

While lawyers assume ultimate responsibility for legal work, they often delegate many of their tasks to paralegals. Paralegals research legal precedent, investigate facts, and prepare legal documents. They conduct research to support a legal proceeding, to formulate a defense, or to initiate legal action. *Corresponding MWCC programs include: Paralegal Studies Degree and Paralegal Certificate.*

Clinical Lab Technician
median salary: $17.72 hourly

Clinical laboratory technicians perform tests used in the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. They analyze body fluids, and cells looking for bacteria, parasites, and other microorganisms; analyze the chemical content of fluids; match blood for transfusions; and more. *Corresponding MWCC program: Clinical Lab Science Degree (recently accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences)*

Biological Technician
median salary: $23.18 hourly

Biological technicians assist scientists in laboratories. While biological technicians can work in a variety of settings, MWCC's biotechnology program is particularly focused on preparing students for careers in the pharmaceutical industry. Those working in this field apply knowledge and techniques gained from basic research, including gene splicing and recombinant DNA, and apply them to developing and manufacturing medicines. *Corresponding MWCC program: Biotechnology Degree and Certificate.*

Radiologic Technician
Median salary: $31.93 hourly

Radiologic technologists produce x-ray films (radiographs) of parts of the human body for use in diagnosing medical problems. They prepare patients for radiologic examinations and position patients so that the parts of the body can be appropriately radiographed. *MWCC has an articulation agreement with Quinsigamond Community College, allowing students to complete general education coursework at MWCC before applying to the Radiologic Technology program at QCC.*

Dental Hygienist
median salary: $36.33 hourly

Dental hygienists provide preventative oral healthcare services, remove deposits from teeth, and teach patients how to practice good oral hygiene. They examine patients' teeth and gums, recording the presence of diseases or abnormalities. *Corresponding MWCC program: Dental Hygiene Degree.*

Physical Therapist Assistant
median salary: $22.94 hourly

Physical therapist assistants help physical therapists provide treatment that improves patient mobility, relieves pain, and prevents or lessens physical disabilities of patients. This might involve exercises, massages, electrical stimulation, and more. Physical therapist assistants record the patient's responses to treatment and report the outcome of each treatment to the physical therapist. *Corresponding MWCC program: Physical Therapist Assistant Degree.*

Environmental Technician
median salary: $20.77 hourly

Energy technicians and auditors assess the energy use of commercial and residential buildings and make recommendations and/or implement changes that would improve energy efficiency. Green jobs are growing—according to *Green Jobs: A Guide to Eco-Friendly Employment*, the current growth in green jobs will be equivalent to the tech revolution of the 80s and 90s. *MWCC has an Energy Management Degree and Certificate pending approval for spring 10. Courses that can be applied toward this program begin this fall.*

Broadcast Technician
median salary: $14.11 hourly

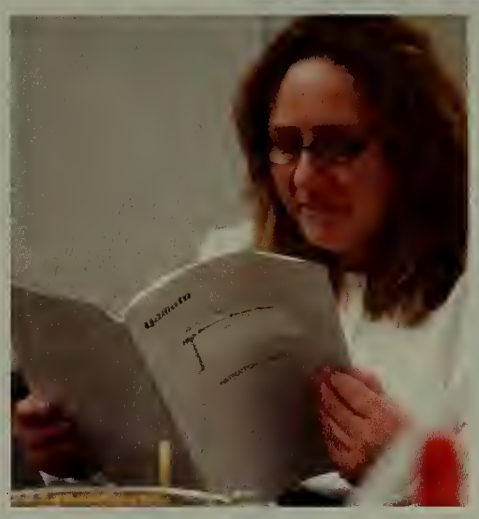
Broadcast technicians set up, operate, and maintain equipment that regulates the signal strength, clarity, and the range of sounds and colors of radio or television broadcasts. They also operate control panels to select the source of the material. Technicians may switch from one camera or studio to another, from film to live programming, or from network to local programming. *Corresponding MWCC program: Broadcasting & Electronic Media.* **CF**

Biotechnology: The Future is Here

Mount Wachusett Community College invites you to experience a cutting-edge adventure in learning.

What is a fast growing industry that offers a multi-billion dollar opportunity and is already proving to change the way we live and work? The answer is biotechnology. What is biotechnology? When applied toward the pharmaceutical industry, biotechnology is the use of organisms to develop new and potentially life-saving medicines.

Massachusetts is on the threshold of a new era in biotechnology and Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) wants to ensure that citizens of North Central Massachusetts and the surrounding area will benefit from this new industry. That is why MWCC has developed a Biotechnology/ Biomanufacturing Degree and Certificate program based at its Devens Campus, through a unique partnership with Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS).



Growing industry in the region

BMS is currently building a $750-million cell-culture facility in Devens, which is expected to become a major employer in the region. They expect to fill 350 positions, many in biomanufacturing, by the time the facility begins commercial production in 2011. The pharmaceutical company will manufacture Orencia, a biologic medicine used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

This is good news for community college students. "The graduates of MWCC's Biotechnology program will be highly sought after," predicts Richard Elmer, the company's manager of learning and development.

MWCC staff works closely with area companies, including BMS, Bionostics, Genzyme Corporation, and New England Peptide, to ensure that the program's curriculum turns out highly-skilled employees. The result is a range of courses on biotech. basics; the use and calibration of standard lab instruments; preparation of media and solutions; and protocols for DNA isolation, gene mapping, expression and regulation. Selected internships are available, too.

"We are looking to MWCC to provide us with a pipeline of qualified talent to fill these key positions, from the present to 2011 and beyond," says Elmer. "We are looking for people who are adaptable and flexible, willing to continue to learn, see work as a challenge and want to contribute to the mission of Bristol-Myers Squibb, which is to extend and enhance human life."

Which MWCC biotech. program is right for you?

One Year Certificate and Two Year Associate Degree Program

Prepare for in-demand careers in biotechnology and biomanufacturing. MWCC offers a 29 credit Biotechnology Certificate program that offers excellent academic and skill development for positions in the biotech. industry. Students looking for a more rounded program should enroll in the 62 credit associate degree program.

15-Week Noncredit Training

Prepare for entry-level careers in biomanufacturing through an intensive 15-week, selective Biomanufacturing Workforce Training Program. The program is Section 30 qualified. Call Tami Morin, (978) 630-9578, email tmorin@mwcc.mass.edu, to find out about the application process. **CF**

What you can do with biotechnology:

- **High School Diploma** - animal care, glass washer, lab assistant.
  Salary range: $15,000-$34,000
- **Community College Degree/Certificate** - lab technician, lab assistant, research assistant, media prep, manufacturing
  Salary range: $34,000-$53,000
- **Bachelor's Degree** - environmental health and safety, patent agent, bioinformatics, research associate, imaging specialist
  Salary range: $40,000-$70,000
- **Graduate Degree** - teacher, lab manager, associate scientist, clinical research manager, clinical programmer, field application scientist, medical writer, research scientist, senior scientist, university professor, clinical research associate, scientist (lab director).
  Salary range: $50,000-$100,000+

It is projected by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc., that jobs for biological technicians will grow by seven percent, or over 200 jobs, in Worcester and Middlesex counties by the year 2010. "The processes students will learn are applicable to any biomanufacturing and biotechnology company, and the skills are highly marketable," says Assistant Professor Lara Dowland, chair of MWCC's Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing program. "This industry is not at full realization yet, so the job opportunities are going to continue to grow for students coming out of the program." According to Dowland, community college graduates will be able to pursue careers as lab technicians, lab assistants, research assistants, and manufacturing technicians.

Program receives a boost

Despite the growing need for biological technicians, many community colleges face challenges in developing curriculum and acquiring the technical lab equipment needed for this type of program. This is not the case for MWCC. In addition to assistance from BMS, a major boost to the program occurred when the college received a $1.6-million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant has been used to help outfit the labs at MWCC's Devens Campus with state-of-the-art equipment, provide scholarships, and hire training faculty.

The grant also included the development of an intensive 15-week noncredit biotechnology program. Recent high school graduates as well as career-changers with a strong background in math, biology and chemistry are eligible to apply for a seat in the rigorous program. Students completing the program are ready to enter the workforce and could earn up to 10 credits toward MWCC's two existing Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing academic programs. Students are able to attend free through the grant.

What is the biotechnology field like?

According to J. Michael Bishop, M.D., winner of the 1989 Nobel Prize in Physiology, "You do not have to be a scientist to enjoy and understand the wonders of nature." Instead, you may be someone who wants to discover or learn something new every day; create things that never existed before; explore new territory; and enjoy finding out about things yet unknown. This describes the characteristics of current-day pioneers who would thrive in the dynamic field of biotechnology. In fact, those who work in biotechnology are often compared to detectives because professionals in both fields share the abilities to be creative, intuitive, observant, logical, imaginative, and persistent.

For more information on MWCC's biotechnology programs, contact Tami Morin, (978) 630-9578, email tmorin@mwcc.mass.edu CF

Jennifer Crandall

A.S., Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing Associate Degree

Jennifer is part of the first graduating class of MWCC's new biotechnology program. When asked what she likes most about MWCC's program, she remarks, "Because the labs are equipped with state-of-the art technology, I received great hands-on experience using the type of equipment I will be using when I am working the field." **CF**

Feature

Hands-on Job With "Wallet-full" Potential

Computer graduates do far more than repair PCs

In 1943, the chairman of IBM, Thomas Watson, said, "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." Even Watson couldn't predict the rapid change brought on by the computer age. Now two thirds of American households have at least one personal computer and virtually no business would be profitable without one.

Today computers do much more than simply compute: supermarket scanners calculate our grocery bill while keeping store inventory; computerized telephone switching centers play traffic cop to millions of calls and keep lines of communication untangled; and automatic teller machines let us conduct banking transactions from virtually anywhere in the world.

Computer technology—it's everywhere, transforming the way we live, learn, work and play while creating high demand for a highly skilled workforce. IT support, computer programming, information technology, networking, the web—there is a world of opportunity waiting for people who get it and can get it done.

Today's businesses are looking for employees who understand how to put computers to use to devise practical solutions that increase productivity, cut costs, better serve customers and increase profits. Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) offers numerous computer classes that provide the training people need to help businesses do just that. Whether incoming students are computer geeks or beginners, the Computer Information Systems (CIS) department at MWCC prepares students for lucrative careers in a field where jobs await.

Helpdesk/IT Support Specialist

Because most businesses rely heavily on their computer systems for their day-to-day operation, people are needed to maintain, support, and keep them up and running. IT support specialists answer questions and resolve computer problems for clients, making them the "go to" people in many businesses. MWCC's IT Support Specialist Certificate prepares students for entry-level help desk/IT support positions

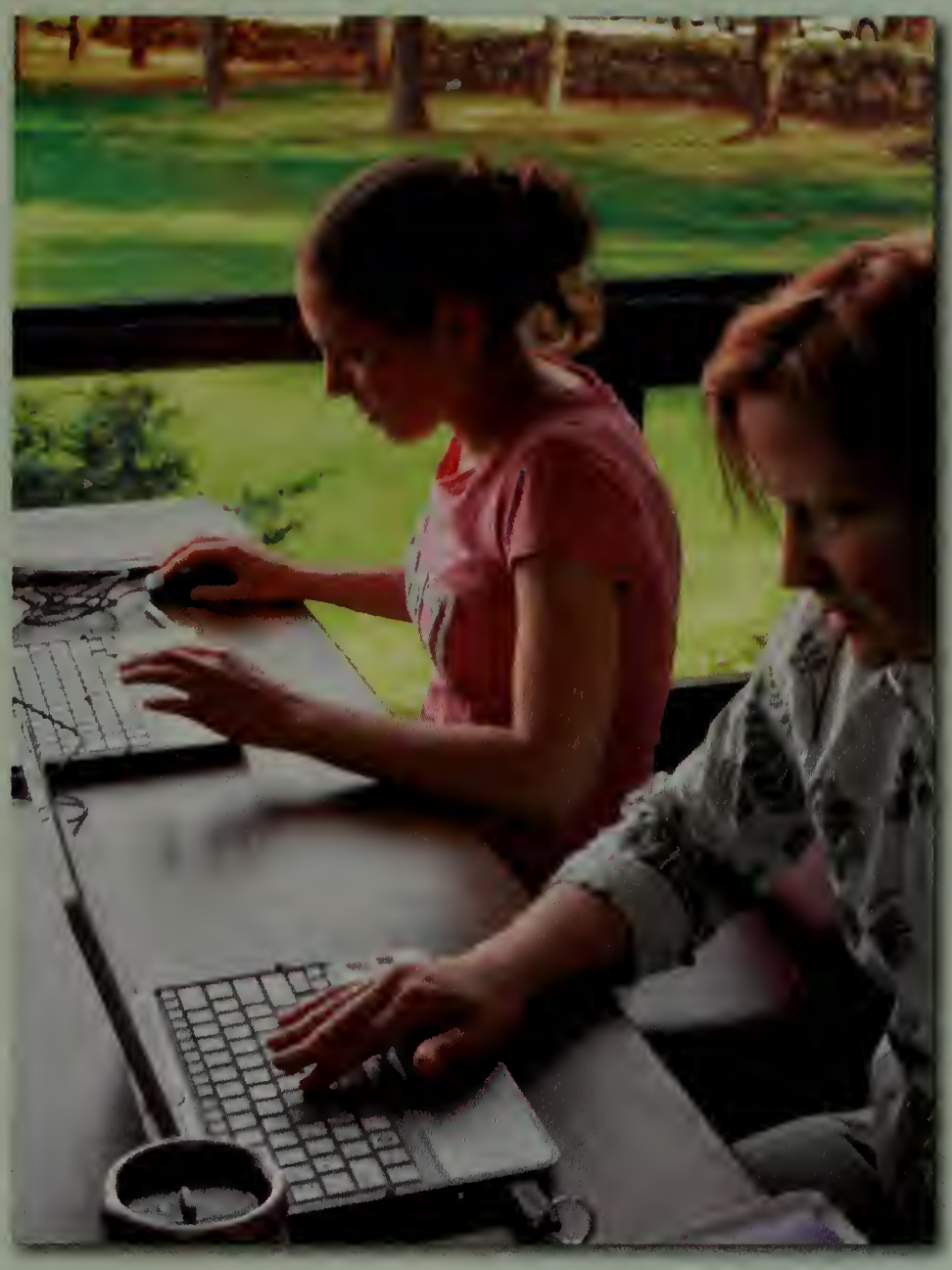
or to continue their education in the CIS Degree. Students learn about configuring, diagnosing, and repairing microcomputers and associated technologies. Students in this program become prepared to pass the A+ certification exams and succeed in the PC repair industry.

Networking Technology

From the simple Mom & Pop operation to a multi-campus business complex, practically every business has the need for computer networking. The need for qualified people to design, configure and maintain the networks that support computer systems in the home, office, and enterprise environments is only growing.

Students in MWCC's CIS Degree learn the necessary skills to competently perform as a network administrator or system manager. Major coursework includes networking concepts, setting up user and group accounts, securing network resources, configuring and administering network printers, backup, auditing events, and monitoring network resources. In today's online environment, information security and web server technologies are also essential and this is a component of MWCC's program as well.

MWCC's Electronic Communications & Digital Media Certificate focuses on information systems and networking technologies, but more specifically on the design and implementation of secure integrated networks for servers that deliver IT services. Workers in this field design integrated voice and data communication systems, supervise the installation of the systems, and provide maintenance and other services to clients after the systems are installed. Students in this certificate program will be prepared for certification exams including CompTIA, A+, Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA), CCNA® Security (IINS), Securing Networks with Cisco Routers and Switches (SNRS), Securing Networks with PIX and ASA (SNPA), CompTIA Security+, and Cisco Certified Network Associate Wireless (CCNA® Wireless). This program is offered through MWCC at Worcester Technical High School in the evening.



Computer Programming

The days when programmers could sit in a closet writing code are long gone. Successful programmers are required to figure out how people use the neat things that technology has to offer. In today's technology-driven world, the person who succeeds is one who can go into a situation, decide how processes need to be changed, which technology would appropriately address the situation, create the program (or at least work with the programmers) and then train the end-user on how to use the new technology.

While MWCC's primary emphasis is to prepare you to enter the workforce in a networking or helpdesk/IT support position, the skills you learn at MWCC can be the jump off point for a career as a .NET developer, database programmer/analyst, HTML web developer/programmer, network support specialist, Oracle/SQL entry level programmer, or PHP/MYSQL programmer. In fact, these are current positions of MWCC's alumni. "The experience I gained in the PL/SQL class helped me to get a job as an Oracle programmer at a multinational company," says Adam Gelinas, a CIS graduate who is now a programmer analyst at Wellesley Information Services.

Computer Information Technology

MWCC's flexible curriculum allows students to select a track to meet community information systems needs as well as their own in a field with growing opportunities. "The CIS program at MWCC placed me into an immediate job opening in the field I was studying. I heard about the position from a school job listing," says Ashley Jewett, a CIS graduate who is now an IT specialist with The Schofield Group, LLC. Jewett's experience is increasingly common among CIS graduates. According to Department Chair Tina Wilson, she has found that students graduating in this field are quickly finding employment. This is backed by data from Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. that shows computer support as a top growing field requiring an associate degree in Massachusetts. "We will help you develop your ability to communicate and work with complex technical issues related to computer hardware, software, and networks so you are ready to enter the field," says Wilson.

For more information on CIS programs, contact Department Chairperson Professor Tina Wilson at (978) 630-9225 or email twilson@mwcc.mass.edu, or contact the Enrollment Center (978) 630-9284 or email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu. **CF**

MWCC Program Options

Computer Information Systems Associate Degree

Electronic Communications & Digital Media Certificate

IT Support Specialist Certificate

Office Assistant Certificate

Feature

Tune-up for a High Octane Career in Automotive Technology

Do you—or does somebody you know—have what it takes to become a great auto technician? Now is a good time to get the certified training you need to become a professional automotive service technician. Mount Wachusett Community College's Automotive Technology programs can help you get the credentials you need.

The U.S. Department of Labor reports strong job growth in the field of automotive service technology. According to the department's job outlook, "The number of jobs for automotive service technicians and mechanics is projected to grow faster than average for all occupations over the next decade. Employment of automotive service technicians and mechanics is expected to increase 14 percent between 2006 and 2016, compared to 10 percent for all occupations." [1]

Automotive Technology Careers

- Service Technician
- Service Manager
- Race Team Pit Crew Member
- Diesel Mechanic
- Shop Manager or Owner
- Repair Service Writer
- Motorcycle, Boat, and Small Engine Mechanic

Even in today's challenging economic times, the field of automotive repair continues to be bright. A recent *Wall Street Journal* article included auto repair in its "Five Businesses to Start in a Bad Economy," stating that, "with gas prices high and the economy weak, people are liable to hang onto their cars, rather than trading them in for a new model every three or four years, creating lots of opportunity for automotive repair." [2]

Whether it's a degree or certificate program, MWCC has a program to get you started down the path to a bright future. Today's cars are loaded with complex computer and electronic systems, and the technicians that work on them have to be highly trained, skilled professionals who are competent in math, science and computer technology. Communication and management skills are equally important for success in the field. MWCC's automotive programs are designed to equip students with the specialized knowledge required in today's high tech. automotive industry. According to Automotive Technology Professor Peter Kaufmann, "We are technicians, not mechanics anymore."

MWCC's programs prepare students for employment in many areas of the automotive field including dealerships, independent garages, fleet shops, service stations and specialty shops.

Employers know that MWCC will provide them with qualified technicians, and placement for graduates has been high. In fact, over 90 percent of recent graduates of the program had jobs before they left MWCC. "Our students are employed by repair shops and dealerships while in the program and move from part-time to full-time employees," says Paul Seeley, associate professor of automotive technology.

Certificate and Associate Degree in Automotive Technology

Students enrolling in automotive technology have two options of study: the Automotive Technology Certificate, which can be completed in one year, or the Automotive Technology Degree, which can be completed in two years.

Completion of the certificate or degree program prepares students for the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certification Tests.

The Automotive Technology Associate Degree program covers all aspects of the certificate program, as well as the option to take core business courses to prepare students if they wish to start their own businesses. Students can pursue employment in the areas of computerized engine controls, steering and suspension, transmissions,

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alignments, brakes, control systems diagnostics and engine service.

ASE certification is possible for automotive service excellence/master automobile technician. ASE accepts the two-year MWCC auto program as one year of work experience.

The associate degree program also includes courses that provide a foundation for business and communication skills.

According to Seeley, "When a student finishes the program they will have a basic understanding of a car from bumper to bumper, and walk into any shop very employable."

NATEF Certified

MWCC's automotive programs are accredited by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). This designation assures that MWCC's programs meet and/or exceed national industry-wide standards of excellence. As nationally certified, ASE trained technicians, MWCC's automotive program graduates are often more employable. According Kaufmann, "This credential definitely helps our students once they graduate. Employers know exactly what skills our students have mastered."

Instructors

MWCC's Automotive Technology instructors are the best in the business and have had extensive real-world experience in the field; all are ASE-certified technicians. They go the extra mile assisting students with next steps after completing the program, whether it's seeking employment or transferring to a four-year college.

MWCC's instructors are confident that the programs are beneficial to students in a wide variety of ways. As Kaufmann puts it, "If you complete this program, it doesn't mean that you have to become a technician. There are so many different things these classes can lead you into . . . The knowledge you get from this program can help you in a variety of careers."

For more information about the automotive programs at Mount Wachusett Community College, contact the Enrollment Center, (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu.

[1] U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition*.

[2] *The Wall Street Journal*, "Five Businesses to Start in a Bad Economy," September 25. 2008. **CF**

Title	Employment, 2006	Projected Employment 2016	Change in Number of Jobs	Percent of Change
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	773,000	883,000	110,000	14%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition, Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics, on the Internet at http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos181.htm (visited June 22, 2009).

More Education, Equals Less Unemployment

It's a scary time: The economy is shaky and unemployment is on the rise. The national unemployment rate reached 9.4 percent in May, up from 5 percent in 2008.

Yet, historically the more education workers have, the less likely they will be unemployed. Workers without a high school degree have an unemployment rate of a whopping 12 percent while workers with a bachelor's degree feel far less pain with an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent.

In between those extremes, workers with some college education still felt the pinch with a 6.2 percent unemployment rate, and high school grads limped by with 8 percent unemployment.

Facts AND Finds

Green on Green Street

Over the years Mount Wachusett Community College has become a national leader in implementing renewable energy and energy conservation solutions.

MWCC has greatly reduced energy consumption on its campus and has installed cutting edge technology such as biomass heating, biomass gasification/ electricity generation, and solar photovoltaics. Over the past eight years, the college has cumulatively saved $3.2 million in energy costs. These savings also reflect tremendous reductions in greenhouse gases. Collectively, the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to date is the equivalent of planting 3,539 acres of trees and removing 2,256 automobiles from the road.

More Choose Community College

As a college education becomes more important for a good job, enrollment in community colleges and universities is on the rise. And while the high tuition of private colleges and universities gets a lot of press, the reality is that most students choose public universities and community colleges where tuition rates are much lower

Here's a look at the reality of college attendance:

- From 1995 to 2007 overall enrollment in college increased 22 percent, meaning about 2.2 million more students are in college today than in 1995.
- Four out of five students are enrolled in public colleges or universities.
- Fifty-six percent of all students are enrolled in community colleges—a 20 percent increase over the past decade.

(United States Government Accountability Office report, November 2007)

College Education Pays Now and Later

While it's never a good idea to choose a career simply based on the money, it's always nice to know how much you can expect once you have your degree in hand. The top of the list of starting salaries for new college graduates includes healthcare ($40,500) and engineering ($38,900), but across the board all college graduates made a median starting salary of $30,800 a year with those in education ($26,600), arts and humanities ($25,000) at the lower end.

But how are those same graduates doing ten years into a career? In many cases their salaries have doubled and more of them report that they're working in careers that are relevant to their degree.

Ten years after graduation, the average income for all college graduates was $60,600 but here's how it breaks down by major:

Engineer	$74,900
Computer Science	$72,600
Business and Management	$65,900
Health	$65,000
Biological Sciences	$62,200
Mathematics/Physical Sciences	$58,200
Arts and Humanities	$52,800
Education	$43,800

(Occupational Outlook Quarterly, Summer 2008)

FITNESS AND WELLNESS CENTER

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We have it all and we do it all better!

- 65,000 square foot full-service center
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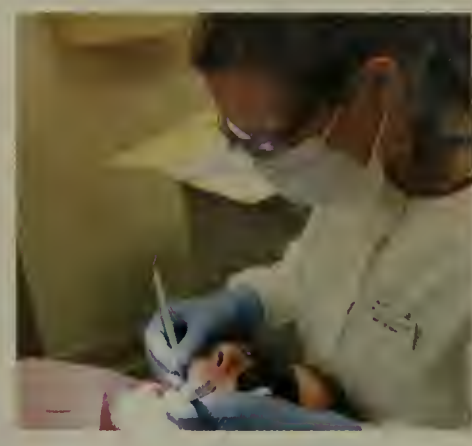
For a free tour or membership information, call (978) 630-9212.

http://www.mwcc.edu/fitness/



Small Investment... BIG Return

Are you interested in attending college, but not sure if you can afford it? The real question is: can you afford not to? According to Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY, associate degree holders earn, on average, close to $9,000 more a year than those who only have a high school diploma. Over the course of 25 years, that's $225,000 more! The numbers grow exponentially if you continue on to earn further degrees.

At Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC), not only will you receive an education that is affordable, you'll have the option of working toward a career or taking courses that transfer to four-year colleges and universities. You'll save thousands by completing your first two years toward a four-year degree at MWCC. And now, through new 3 plus ONE agreements, you can complete your first three years toward your bachelor's degree at MWCC, at MWCC prices.

Still wondering if you can afford college? Financial aid is available for those who qualify and MWCC also offers a monthly payment plan to make paying for your college education even easier.

Check out MWCC's degree and certificate programs below and start exploring the new possibilities that could lie ahead for you. The adjacent legend identifies which campuses programs can be completed at; whether it is a day, evening, or online program; and any special application requirements.

Classes begin Sept. 2 at MWCC campuses in Gardner, Leominster and Devens. Call (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu; or go to www.mwcc.edu to learn more. **CF**

Legend

D-can be completed during the day

DE-can be completed entirely at the Devens Campus

E-can be completed in the evening

G-can be completed entirely at the Gardner Campus

L-can be completed entirely at the Leominster Campus

W-most of the classes for this program are offered online

S-Admission to the program is selective.

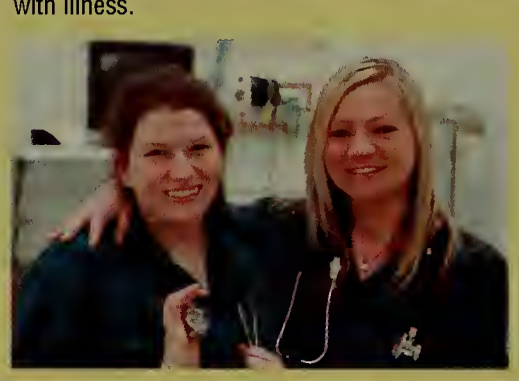
* based on annual full-time employment

Area of Study	About	Program	Mode of Completion	Median Income*
Administrative Assistant	Administrative assistants perform a variety of administrative and clerical duties necessary to run an organization efficiently.	**Office Assistant Certificate**	D, E, G, L, W	Varies according to industry
Allied Health	Gain skills to enter the healthcare field. This program will allow you to complete prerequisites before applying to one of MWCC's selective healthcare programs.	**Allied Health Conc. Degree**	D, E, G, L	Varies according to industry
		Allied Health Certificate	D, G, W	Varies according to industry
Art	Prepare to transfer to a four-year college and pursue studio art or an art-related program in administration, education, or design.	**Art—Traditional Program Degree**	D, G	Varies according to industry
		Art—Professional Track Degree	D, G	Varies according to industry
Automotive Technology	Not manufacturer-specific, giving you maximum employment flexibility in auto tech. fields.	**Auto. Tech. Degree**	D, G	$34,625 to $59,250
		Auto. Tech. Certificate	D, G	$29,181 to $38,826

Area of Study	About	Program	Mode of Completion	Median Income*
Biotechnology/ Biomanufacturing	A top-growing industry. Biological technicians use microscopic living organisms or materials to help manufacture drugs and other substances.	**Biotech./ Biomanufacturing Degree**	D, E, DE	$40,232 to $53,206
		Biotech./ Biomanufacturing Certificate	D, E, DE	$34,000 to $42,000
Broadcasting & Electronic Media	Prepare for careers in the television, radio, recording, multimedia, and cable industries. Acquire both technical and communications skills.	**Broadcasting & Electronic Media Degree**	D, G	Varies according to industry
Business Administration	Gain practical skills and a broad view of business, preparing you for positions in sales, accounting, advertising, customer service, and more.	**Business Admin.— Career Degree**	D, E, G, L, W	Varies according to industry
		Business Admin.— Transfer Degree	D, E, G, W	Varies according to industry
		Business Admin. Certificate	D, E, G, L, W	Varies according to industry
		Computer-assisted Accounting Certificate	D, E, G, L, W	$29,579 to $39,481
		Small Business Mgt. Certificate	D, E, G, L, W	Varies according to industry
Clinical Laboratory Science	Prepare to play a vital role in patient care by performing diagnostic clinical laboratory procedures.	**Clinical Lab Science Degree**	D, G, S	$26,430 to $41,020
Complementary Health Care (CHC)	Learn complementary/holistic approaches to maintaining health and supporting recovery from injury or illness.	**CHC—Massage Therapy Degree**	D, G, S	$37,815 to $57,334
		Massage Therapy Certificate	D, G	$37,815 to $57,334
		CHC—Yoga Teacher Conc. Degree	D, E, G	Varies according to industry
		CHC Certificate	D, E, G	Varies according to industry
Computer Graphic Design (CGD)	Gain visual design, communication, and computer graphic skills necessary to obtain an entry-level position as a graphic designer.	**CGD—Print Degree**	D, G	$40,451 to $52,207
		CGD—Print Certificate	D, G	$40,451 to $52,207
		CGD—Web Design Degree	D, G	$41,764 to $54,788
		CGD—Web Design Certificate	D, G	$41,764 to $54,788
Computer Information Systems	Prepare for entry-level positions in the info. tech. field in areas such as web application development, e-commerce, networking administration, and desktop application support.	**Computer Information Systems Degree**	D, E, G, W	$32,110 to $53,640
		Electronic Communications & Digital Media Certificate	E	$27,680 to $56,000
		IT Support Specialist Certificate	D, E, G, L, W	$25,000 and above

Area of Study	About	Program	Mode of Completion	Median Income*
Criminal Justice (CJ)	Prepare for a career in law enforcement or corrections or to transfer to a four-year college.	**CJ—Corrections Degree**	D, G	Varies according to industry
		CJ—Law Enforcement Degree	D, G	Varies according to industry
		Law Enforcement Certificate	D, G	Varies according to industry
Dental Hygiene	Prepare for a career as a dental hygienist, providing preventative oral health care services.	**Dental Hygiene Degree**	D, S, ***Burbank Campus Only***	$56,488 to $72,641
Early Childhood Education (ECE)	Pursue careers working with young children as teachers or administrators in preschools, Head Start, daycare centers, and elementary schools. Prepare for a career or to transfer to a four-year college.	**ECE—Career Degree**	D, E, G	$24,157 to $32,995
		ECE—Transfer Degree	D, E, G	$42,008 to $63,071
		Elementary Ed. Conc. Degree	D, E, G	$42,812 to $60,831
Emergency Medical Technician	EMTs provide vital attention caring for and transporting the sick or injured to medical facilities.	**EMT Training (non-degree program)**	E, G	$26,055 to $30,923
Energy Management (pending approval for Spring 10)	Prepare for a career as an energy auditor or energy technician. This program has been proposed for spring 10. However, you can enroll in the first semester of courses during fall 09.	**Energy Management Degree (pending approval)**	D, E, G	$30,000 and above
		Energy Management Certificate (pending approval)	D, E, G	$30,000 and above
English-as-a-Second Language	For speakers of other languages. Gain English skills to assist you in your daily life and/or to prepare to enter a degree or certificate program.	**English-as-a-Second Language (non-degree program)**	L	N/A
Fire Science	Prepare to become a firefighter through coursework in building construction, fire prevention, arson investigation, and more.	**Fire Science Degree**	E, G	$30,880 to $51,466
Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science	Prepare for a career or to transfer in areas including exercise science, exercise physiology, and fitness management.	**Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Conc. Degree**	D, E, G	$37,753 to $66,856
		Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Certificate	D, E, G	$37,753 to $64,562

Area of Study	About	Program	Mode of Completion	Median Income*
General Studies	For those whose educational goals are not yet defined. A flexible curriculum, allowing you to explore many disciplines.	**General Studies Degree**	D, E, G, L	Varies according to industry
Human Services	Enter a rewarding career helping others who are experiencing personal and socialization issues.	**Human Services Degree**	D, E, G, L, W	$19,220 to $30,900
		Human Services Tech. Certificate	D, E, G, L	$17,820 to $27,930
Liberal Arts & Sciences	Highly-recommended for those who plan to transfer. Provides the requirements of the first two years of a bachelor's degree. Several concentrations are available including: communications, elementary education, history & political science, fitness leadership & exercise science, and theatre arts.	**Liberal Arts Degree**	D, E, DE, G, W	Designed for transfer
		Liberal Studies Degree (several concentrations available)	Varies according to concentration	Designed for transfer
Manufacturing Technology	Prepare for a career in plastics manufacturing. This program is a joint venture among Nypro, Inc., Fitchburg State College, and MWCC.	**Manufacturing Technology—Plastics Degree**	E, Courses offered at Nypro, Inc.	$22,000 to $40,000
Medical Assisting/Office	Medical Office will prepare you for an administrative position in healthcare office. Medical Assisting provides a clinical component as well.	**Medical Assisting Degree**	D, G, W	$26,490 to $31,463
		Medical Office Certificate	D, E, DE, G	$29,912 to $36,989
Natural Resources	Prepare for environmental occupations in horticulture/floriculture, agriculture, forestry, recycling, materials handling and more.	**Natural Resources Degree**	D, G	$32,533 to $49,255
Nursing	Nurses promote health, prevent disease, and help patients cope with illness.	**Nursing Degree**	D, E, G, S	$56,578 to $67,599
		Practical Nurse Certificate	D, DE, G, S	$36,434 to $43,241
Paralegal	Gain skills to work in a legal setting: gathering and analyzing facts relevant to a legal dispute, performing legal research, drafting legal documents, and preparing witnesses and evidence for presentation at legal proceedings.	**Paralegal Studies Degree**	D, E, G, L, W	$31,921 to $52,717
		Paralegal Certificate	D, E, G, L, W	$31,921 to $52,717
Phlebotomy	Collect blood and other specimens for diagnostic laboratory testing.	**Phlebotomy Training (non degree program)**	E, G	$26,144 to $30,892
Physical Therapist Assistant	Physical therapist assistants implement treatment procedures in the rehabilitation of injured, ill, or debilitated individuals.	**Physical Therapist Assistant Degree**	D, DE, G, S	$33,840 to $49,010



Earning your bachelor's degree is as easy as A to B!

Now you can earn your bachelor's degree from Nichols College right here, thanks to the **A to B Business Program Partnership** with Mount Wachusett Community College. You'll take your third year classes on the MWCC campus with MWCC instructors. Your fourth year is with Nichols College – the classes can be taken on the MWCC campus or online. Please note you must be accepted before the end of your second year. **It's affordable, convenient and smart.**

Start working towards your bachelor's today. To find out more, contact Nichols at 800-243-3844 or AtoB@nichols.edu.

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MWCC Introduces New In-demand Career Programs This Fall

Allied Health Concentration Degree and Allied Health Certificate
Prepare for a variety of careers in healthcare, or enroll in this program while you complete prerequisites toward one of MWCC's selective healthcare programs.

Complementary Health Care–Yoga Teacher Training Degree
Learn holistic approaches to health. Prepare to become a 200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher.

Energy Management Degree and Certificate (program pending for spring 10)
Prepare for a career as an energy auditor or energy technician. This program has been proposed for spring 10. However, you can enroll in the first semester of courses during fall 09.

IT Support Specialist Certificate
Companies need staff who keep their computer systems up and running. Prepare for careers in this growing field.

Office Assistant Certificate
Perform administrative and clerical duties necessary to run an organization efficiently. Opportunities in this field are growing.

For more information, contact the Enrollment Center, (978) 630-9284, email admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

Mount Wachusett Community College

Fast forward your career and your life.

Need quick training to start a career? Looking to take a class for fun?

MWCC offers noncredit classes that enhance your home, work, and personal life. Choose from classes offered days, evenings, or online. No grades or exams (except for licensure courses)! Just learning and enjoyment.

- Microsoft Office
- Green/Renewable Energy
- Spanish
- Healthcare
- Management & Leadership
- Comedy
- Home Improvement
- A+/Cisco
- Nurse Aide Training
- Test Preparation
- Website Development
- Arts & Leisure
- Crafts & Hobbies
- Writing

Go to www.mwcc.edu/LLL or call (978) 630-9124.

The fall brochure will be available soon!

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BIG Return

Everything you'd expect from a college, except the high cost:

- Convenient courses in Gardner, Leominster, Devens, or online
- Financial aid and payment plan options
- Transfer agreements with prominent four-year colleges
- Career programs that provide quick training to help you enter a career
- Convenient four day class schedule for most programs
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